

Appleby Archaeology Group

Notes of The Annual General Meeting of the Appleby Archaeology Group which took place on Tuesday January 13th 2009 in the Supper Room, Market Hall, Appleby at 7pm.

Present

Committee members 7

Members of the group 21

Richard Stevens Chairman
Mike Godfrey Treasurer
Phyllis Rouston Secretary
Martin Joyce Newsletter Editor
Heather Edwards Publicity Officer
Martin Railton Fieldwork/Research
Liz Hawkins Membership Secretary

Apologies for Absence

Jennifer Callis Ray Wager

Notes of the last AGM 8/01/08

The notes had been circulated to all members with the autumn Newsletter.

05/02/08 should have read "The chairman advised that he had completed the first year of his five year appointment." With this amendment the minutes were agreed a correct record.

1/2009 Matters arising from the notes

There were no matters arising.

2/2009 Chairman's report

The chairman thanked the membership for their continuing support and enthusiasm in what had been a successful year. The evening talks had been well attended with a number of visitors at each talk some of whom subsequently became members. Membership stands at 65 with renewal due this month.

The members of the committee were thanked for their support and Liz Hawkins for her work as membership secretary

The highlight of the year had been the excavation on Brackenber Moor when 20 members had had the opportunity to be involved in a dig. The chairman acknowledged the financial support from The Cumberland and Westmoreland Antiquarian and Archaeology Society and informed the meeting that they had given a further grant to enable Phase2 of the excavation to go ahead next year.

He gave notice that our third conference on Medieval Life in the Eden Valley is to be held at Appleby Grammar School on the 3rd October 2009. Dr Angus Wilson would again be chairing the day and speakers from across the country would be contributing.

He concluded by mentioning that the group's web site was now up and running and thanked to Martin Joyce for getting it up and running.

3/2009 Secretary's Report

The year started with the Members' Evening and our 10th birthday party with a talk on the megaliths on Arran and Harry Hawkins review of 10 years of Appleby Archaeology.

We were introduced to different aspects of archaeology over the year. Two experts Jacqui Huntley and Charlotte Roberts, both from Durham, spoke on environmental archaeology and bio archaeology respectively.

We learned about post medieval pottery from hospital sites in Edinburgh also in Scotland we were introduced to Crannogs and underwater archaeology. The group was kept up to date with activities in the north west. Mark Brennand, county archaeologist highlighted the "black hole" in our knowledge of prehistory in Cumbria when he gave an overview of the Research Framework for the North West. Dot Boughton spoke on recent finds in the area and we learned about Anglo Saxon place names in south Cumbria from Dr Corrigan.

Three summer outings were planned. Few people came to the first, a very enjoyable and informative evening visit to Ninekirks led by member Tony Greenwood. The second was, a well subscribed, visit to Vindolanda where we were met by Andrew Birley. The third a visit to Scordale Mine had to be cancelled due to the very wet conditions but we hope that Frank Giecco will be able to take us there this years.

The committee held quarterly meetings to plan programmes and activities and to monitor the finances. One significant activity had been to support Martin Railton work and ensure the field work went ahead on Brackenber Moor.

Communications The Newsletter keeps members informed and entertained. Information received about conferences field walking etc is sent to those members on the secretary's email list. The Herald regularly publishes the reports of the meetings and details of forthcoming events as do the posters produced by Heather.

04/2009 Treasurer's Report

1.) Copies of the Financial Report for the year 2008 were tabled. The accounts had been audited by Peter Bridge and an audited report is available for inspection.

The opening balance for 2008 was £1717.19. The closing balance was £3899.77

The chairman asked the meeting if they had any questions for the treasurer. There being none he asked those present to approve the report. Acceptance of the report was moved by Ann Crosbie seconded by David Kaye and approved by the meeting.

2.) Change of signatories the treasurer advised the meeting that a third signatory was required following the resignation of Harry Hawkins. The treasurer and secretary are signatories. He suggested that Martin Joyce should be the third. This was proposed by Marjorie Campion seconded by Phyllis Rouston and approved by the meeting.

The treasurer reminded those present that subscriptions for 2009 which were due

05/2009 Election of Officers

The chairman informed the meeting of changes in the committee. Harry Hawkins resigned in June and Heather Edwards retires at the meeting.

Harry's contribution as committee member and Chairman and was acknowledged. He had joined the group in its early years and had provided inspiration and leadership.

Heather was thanked for her hard work in successfully advertising the group's activities. A member had indicated his interest in taking on this role and this would be followed up.

Martin Railton has been given the title of fieldwork/research officer and Liz Hawkins, membership secretary, was co-opted on to the committee in the autumn.

The chairman advised that the current officers were elected annually and that the role of vice chairman remains vacant. He asked for nominations from the floor. There were none and the meeting approved that office bearers should continue in their roles for 2009.

06/2009 Brackenber Moor Research Excavation

Martin Railton spoke of the work completed this year and acknowledged the financial support from Neighbourhood Forum in funding the post excavation work. The full report of is available on the website.

He outlined the plans for next year. In spring 2009 further geophysical surveys will be undertaken of other sites on Brackenber Moor in the vicinity of the Druidical Judgment Seat. In July, phase 2 of the excavation which will take place over a week, during The Festival of British Archaeology.

Members will be informed of details through the Newsletter.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 7.30pm.....

Phyllis Rouston